

**I. List: 205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production**

**II. Category Use**

(1) As floating agents in post-harvest handling.

**III. Committee Summary:** The only comment on sodium silicate received during the sunset comment period in August 2005 questioned whether the material was being used by anyone. The commentator (a certifier from the upper mid-west) stated that they had never been asked about the material by any fruit growers and suggested that it be removed from the list. The material was deferred in order to find out if the material is still used by any organic operations. Subsequent Crops Committee contact with the Washington State Organic Program, a certifier in the largest tree fruit growing region in the US, discovered that it is used as a floatation agent by approximately 2/3 of their certified growers who use these types of materials. The other 1/3 is currently using lignin sulfonate. The actual number of growers in their program that are using either material was not disclosed. The contact at the Washington Program stated that these growers would like to continue using the materials, which are used to float pears.

**IV. Committee Recommendation:**

Recommendation based on comments received- 205.601(1)

The Crops Committee recommends renewing the following material to the use category.

**(1) As floating agents in post-harvest handling.**

**(2) Sodium silicate**

*Motion: Rigoberto Delgado      Second: Jeff Moyer*

*Committee vote: 3-1      Absent- Ostiguy*

***Board vote:***